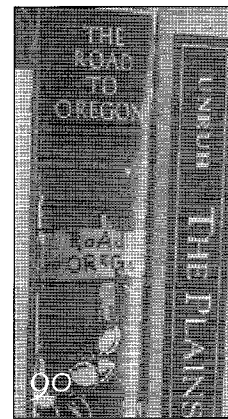
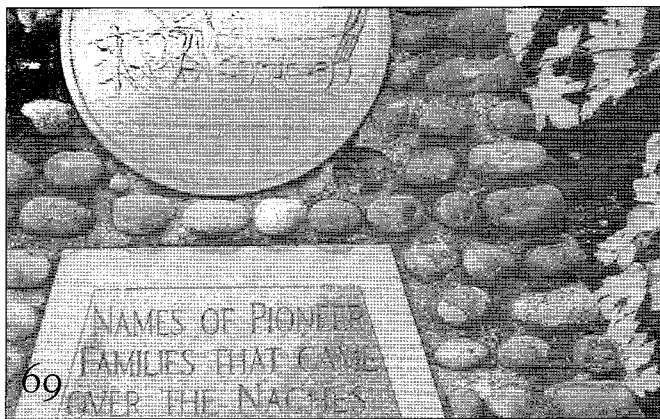
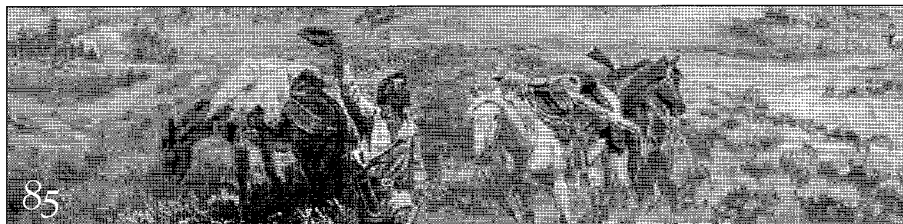


# OVERLAND JOURNAL

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SUBMISSIONS AND EDITORIAL CONTACT: Prospective authors should send queries or their articles to Marlene Smith-Baranzini, *Overland Journal*, P.O. Box 265, Tracy, CA 95378 (email: tealblue1@gmail.com). Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, without embedded illustrations, and with endnotes numbered consecutively. When possible, include suggestions for illustrations. Inquiries concerning suitable topics and author guidelines are welcome and should be addressed to the editor. Neither the editor nor the Association is responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, photographs, artwork, or other material sent for editorial consideration.

On the Lassen Trail, this “presumed shortcut became a graveyard of emaciated and exhausted livestock” (217).

Don’t shy away by my mentioning his 1,662 footnotes. So thoroughly does he explain the trails’ histories within the text, I found there was little need for explanatory footnotes. His footnotes are mainly ancillary documentation for quotes he skillfully weaves into the text.

Bagley has ferreted quotes from libraries, historical societies, and private collections from numerous public and private collections from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. His lengthy bibliography is divided into primary and secondary sources, which I find inconvenient (sticky paper flags ameliorated my hang-up).

Bagley skillfully excerpts germane passages from these documents that help describe the main trails and their tendrils. He weaves the quotes into the script so the writers’ voices are clearly heard. Bagley has such an uncanny ability to match his connecting passages with the main actors’ voices that I would forget I was reading a scholarly historical script. At first this bothered me; then I realized I was being placed on the stage with the actors as an invisible and silent supporting actor.

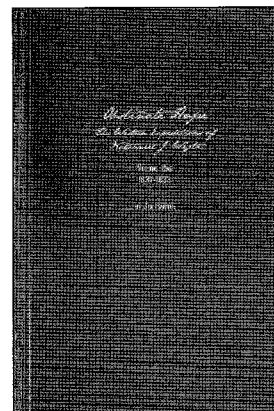
Most of us (men), if not all of us, who have studied the gold rush have learned or felt women played a minor role in the nation’s Golden Manifest Destiny. Bagley points out that “A closer look at the evidence indicates women were more of a presence that most historians have concluded” (243). He presents compelling arguments that we need to reexamine the importance women played in the gold rush and the taming of the West.

This volume is a valuable addition to my Forty-niner library. I have added hundreds of penciled notes to the white space on pages throughout the ten chapters. This is my way of saying: *This is a useful reference book and I intend to use it often as a valuable resource.* Also, it would make a superb textbook for a college class studying Manifest Destiny or the Gold Rush.

I recommend trail buffs and trail scholars add *Golden Visions* to their libraries.

DISCLOSURE: I have known Will Bagley for many years and we are currently editing a gold-rush diary for publication.

*LeRoy C. Johnson is a retired forest geneticist. He and his wife, Jean, are recognized authorities of early Death Valley history.*



OBSTINATE HOPE: THE WESTERN EXPEDITIONS  
OF NATHANIEL J. WYETH

Vol. 1 (of 2)

By Jim Hardee

Pinedale, Wyo.: Sublette County Historical Society/  
Museum of the Mountain Man, 2013. 500 pp., maps and  
illus. in black and white, notes, biblio., index. ISBN 978-  
0976811374. Hardback, 6 × 9 inches, \$24.95.

Reviewed by Jim Tompkins.

Jim Hardee’s work not only follows the life and adventures of Nathaniel Wyeth, but also presents a good view of life in the early nineteenth century. It covers topics from how to cut ice to how to can salmon. It presents the people Wyeth encountered in his early life as well as on the 1832 overland trip to Oregon, including congressmen, nationally known preachers, and prominent fur traders. The book describes the Massachusetts hotel industry, the ice trade, and the Rocky Mountain fur trade. Wyeth’s life journey takes him from the halls of Harvard to Washington, D.C., across the B&O Railroad and the National Road, from St. Louis to the Pierre’s Hole Rendezvous, to the mouth of the Columbia River and the Willamette Valley.

Along the way Wyeth meets up with Hall Jackson Kelley, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Congressman Edward Everett, Thomas Nuttall, Rev Lyman Beecher, William Sublette, Robert Campbell, and Benjamin Bonneville. Each is described in both the context of Wyeth’s life and their contribution to American history. As each is introduced, the story of Wyeth’s business plan for his life, first in Massachusetts, then in Oregon, is developed.

Although Wyeth’s early life as a hotelkeeper and ice merchant at Fresh Pond in Cambridge is described in detail, the bulk of the book covers his 1832–33 journey to

Oregon and back by following his journal. Each journal entry is accompanied by explanations and similar entries from other mountaineers, including John Ball, Rufus Sage, and George Paxton.

On the portions of his journey that follow what would become the Oregon Trail, Wyeth mentions most landmarks that would later be mentioned in emigrant diaries and journals. Hardee attempts to give the history of those landmarks and their names. This includes the explanation of why Wyeth called Chimney Rock Deer Penis. The author details that although Benjamin Bonneville is generally credited with naming Independence Rock, Wyeth was there earlier and used that name.

Wyeth's journals were not without error in both names and dates and Hardee tries to explain these. At one point he called the headwaters of the Colorado River the Lewis River (Snake River) rather than the Green River. (It should be pointed out that Lewis and Clark made similar mistakes as they anticipated where they were located.) In other cases Wyeth uses names that were in use at the time, rather than names used today, such as calling the Raft River the Ocassia River. The author uses both Wyeth's names and the current names in his text.

Hardee, editor of the *Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal* for the Museum of the Mountain Man in Pinedale, Wyoming, and author of a book about Pierre's Hole, gives an excellent description of the 1832 rendezvous at Pierre's Hole on the Idaho side of the Grand Tetons. Also included is a description of the 1832 Battle of Pierre's Hole with the Blackfoot Indians. This event led to a major division of Wyeth's party.

The author compares Nathaniel Wyeth's journal to the writings of others in the party, particularly John Ball and John Wyeth. John Ball's log of miles traveled could bear further research and would add to the wealth of knowledge of western trails. Hardee also includes Wyeth's infrequent letters home to his wife and brother.

After the rendezvous, Wyeth was on his own, loosely following Milton Sublette and Henry Fraeb. At times his route was near, but not on, what would become the Oregon Trail. This portion of the trip and his entire return trek is valuable insight into trappers' trails, but not the Oregon Trail. From the mouth of the Owyhee River to the mouth of the Walla Walla River, he is back on the future route of the Oregon Trail. At the Hudson Bay Company's Fort Walla Walla his party puts into the Columbia River on HBC boats. At Fort Vancouver Wyeth learns that his supply ship, the *Sultana*, has not arrived and his business plan has failed.

Wyeth uses Fort Vancouver as a vantage point to scope out his business future in Oregon. He develops a friendship with Dr. John McLoughlin, his business foe, and discovers the possibility of working with anti-HBC settlers such as Etienne Lucier and Joseph Gervais. Wyeth travels from Fort Vancouver to the mouth of the Columbia and Fort George. He then spends three months wintering on Gervais's farm at Saint Louis on French Prairie before departing for home. As he departed Oregon he assured McLoughlin of his intent to return. He then traveled east with Francis Ermatinger on a rare winter brigade by way of Fort Walla Walla, Pend Oreille, Flathead Lake, the Bitterroot Valley, and Pierre's Hole to the 1833 rendezvous at Green River near Pinedale. The return trip continues with the Rocky Mountain Fur Company along the Yellowstone River. Volume 1 ends at Liberty, Missouri.

Hardee uses many rarely printed images of the West and Oregon, including photos of the Columbia River before the modern dams. There are ten detailed maps showing Wyeth's journey. This is an easily readable book about a relatively obscure figure in overland trails history. The author does an excellent job of putting the character in context. The book is very well researched. Hardee writes from the point of view of the Rocky Mountain fur trade, but contributes to the overall history of the West.

As exciting as volume 1 is, look forward to volume 2, which should include the 1834 return along with Rev. Jason Lee and several naturalists, the building of Fort Hall and Fort William, and the beginning of the salmon industry in Oregon.

*Jim Tompkins is president of the Northwest chapter of OCTA, author of several histories and guidebooks, an Oregon Trail textbook, and three Overland Journal articles. His article "The Law of the Land: Claiming Land at the End of the Oregon Trail" was the 2001 Merrill Mattes Award winner.*

A YANKEE ON PUGET SOUND: PIONEER DISPATCHES OF EDWARD JAY ALLEN, 1852-1855  
By Karen L. Johnson and Dennis M. Larsen

Pullman: Washington State University Press, 2013.  
208 pp., photographs, maps, notes, biblio., index. ISBN:  
978-0-8742-2315-6. Paperback, 8½ × 11 in., \$29.95.

*Reviewed by Susan Badger Doyle.*

*A Yankee on Puget Sound* is a sequel to the authors' *Our Faces are Westward: The 1852 Oregon Trail Journey of Edward*